

that extreme poverty is eradicated, universal education is achieved, quality healthcare is made available, sustainable environmental resources, including land where applicable, is provided, and equal access to justice and representation under the law is granted in Afro-descendant communities in Latin America and the Caribbean; and

(5) encourages the United States and the international community to achieve these goals in Latin America and the Caribbean by—

(A) promoting research that focuses on identifying and eradicating racial disparities in economic, political, and social spheres;

(B) promoting, funding, and creating development programs that focus on Afro-descendant communities;

(C) providing technical support and training to Afro-descendant advocacy groups that work to uphold basic human rights in the region;

(D) promoting the creation of an international working group that focuses on problems of communities of Afro-descendants in the Americas; and

(E) promoting trade and other bilateral and multilateral agreements that take into account the needs of Afro-descendant communities.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a concurrent resolution acknowledging African descendants of the transatlantic slave trade throughout the Western Hemisphere, and in particular, Latin America and the Caribbean. This resolution would raise awareness about the continued injustices they face and urge the U.S. and the international community to work to improve the condition of Afro-descendant communities in these regions.

Slavery remains a dark stain on human history. Over the past century, this terrible evil has been virtually eliminated in many parts of the world, including in the Western Hemisphere.

Here in the United States, we most often speak of slavery as it existed within our borders. But we need to remember that the institution of slavery extended throughout the Americas.

Across the hemisphere, slaves were brought in bondage from Africa, enduring extraordinary hardships, brutal maltreatment, and the deprivation of a most fundamental human right—the right to liberty. Yet, despite this reality, Afro-descendant communities have contributed a great deal to the countries and communities in which they have lived. Unfortunately, though, even today, the many contributions of Afro-descendant communities throughout our hemisphere are underappreciated.

Currently, there are approximately 80 million to 150 million individuals of African descent living in Latin America and the Caribbean. In some countries, including the Dominican Republic and Cuba, Afro-descendants actually constitute the majority of the population. But all too often, they are left marginalized in these societies.

Indeed, individuals of African descent throughout Latin America and the Caribbean suffer disproportionately from a variety of social and economic ills.

On average, they have lower incomes and rates of literacy than do other pop-

ulations in the same areas. And while Afro-descendants make up 30 percent of the population of Latin America, they comprise 60 percent of the region's poor.

These circumstances severely impact Afro-descendant communities in the Americas. Their inhabitants have shorter life spans and higher rates of infant mortality. They suffer from higher rates of HIV/AIDS infection than their compatriots. And many live in deplorable conditions, without potable water, access to healthcare, or basic education.

The resolution I am submitting today is a companion to a measure introduced by Congressman CHARLES RANGEL in the House of Representatives. I believe it is an important resolution, which celebrates the contributions of Afro-descendants to the economic, social, and cultural fabric of our hemisphere, while drawing attention to the continued injustices they face.

This resolution is a message that more attention needs to be focused on the continuing plight of Afro-descendants in the hemisphere. Most importantly, it proposes positive initiatives that would enable us to take a step towards alleviating the suffering caused by extreme poverty and racial disparities in this hemisphere.

Among other things, it encourages the United States and the international community to invest in critical measures to combat racial disparities, including research into identifying and eradicating the causes of such inequities; funding for development programs targeted at the needs of Afro-descendant communities; technical assistance for groups advocating for the rights of Afro-descendants; the creation of an international working-group focused on the problems facing these communities; and the promotion of trade agreements that take into account their needs.

Individuals of African descent have and will continue to play an essential role in the long-term development of our hemisphere. This resolution will help to shed some light on the historic injustices they have faced, and will raise awareness about the challenges continuing to face them in their daily lives throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Doing so is an important step toward righting a historical wrong and paving the way for a more prosperous future. I ask my colleagues for their support in this effort.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 91—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD POSTHUMOUSLY AWARD THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO LEROY ROBERT "SATCHEL" PAIGE

Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. DEWINE, and Mr. SESSIONS) submitted the following concurrent resolu-

tion; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. CON. RES. 91

Whereas Satchel Paige, who was born on July 7, 1906, in Mobile, Alabama, lived a life that was marked by his outstanding contributions to the game of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige was a dominating pitcher whose baseball career spanned several decades, from 1927 to 1965;

Whereas Satchel Paige played in the Negro Leagues and became famous for his unusual pitching style and his ability to strike out almost any player he faced;

Whereas Satchel Paige pitched 62 consecutive scoreless innings in 1933;

Whereas, due to the practice of segregation in baseball, Satchel Paige was prohibited for many years from playing baseball at the major league level;

Whereas Satchel Paige played for many Negro League teams, including—

- (1) the Chattanooga Black Lookouts;
- (2) the Birmingham Black Barons;
- (3) the Nashville Elite Giants;
- (4) the Mobile Tigers;
- (5) the Pittsburgh Crawfords; and
- (6) the Kansas City Monarchs;

Whereas, while pitching for the Kansas City Monarchs, Satchel Paige won 4 consecutive league pennants from 1939 to 1942, and later won a 5th pennant in 1946 with that team;

Whereas, after the desegregation of baseball, Satchel Paige signed a contract to pitch for the Cleveland Indians at age 42, and soon thereafter became the oldest rookie ever to play baseball at the major league level;

Whereas the extraordinary pitching of Satchel Paige helped the Cleveland Indians complete a championship season in 1948, as the team won the American League Championship and the World Series;

Whereas Satchel Paige threw an estimated 300 career shutouts;

Whereas, in 1971, Satchel Paige became the first Negro League player to be inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame;

Whereas the legendary pitching of Satchel Paige earned him numerous awards and accolades, including—

- (1) a nomination to the All Century Team by Major League Baseball as 1 of the greatest players of the 20th century; and
- (2) a selection to the 50 Legends of Baseball by the Postal Service;

Whereas, despite years of discrimination that limited the play of Satchel Paige to the Negro Leagues, his prowess on the pitching mound earned him the respect and admiration of fans and players throughout the world of baseball;

Whereas Satchel Paige passed away on June 8, 1982; and

Whereas the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor in the United States, was established in 1945 to recognize citizens of the United States who have made exceptional contributions to—

- (1) the security or national interests of the United States;
- (2) world peace;
- (3) the culture of the United States or the world; or
- (4) the citizens of the United States or the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring).* That it is the sense of Congress that the President should award the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously to Leroy "Satchel" Paige in honor of his distinguished baseball career and the contributions that he has made to the improvement of the society of the United States and the world.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today on behalf of myself,